

11 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Study on The Role of Airstrikes in Attaining  
US Objectives in North Vietnam

1. Herewith five copies of the study on The Role of Airstrikes in Attaining US Objectives in North Vietnam and a draft letter of transmittal to Secretary McNamara.
2. The second paragraph of the letter represents the way in which [ ] and I recommend you handle the all-weather business. [ ] points out, for example, that the air people consider that they have an all-weather interdiction capability right now. If this is to be contested, we think it is much more appropriate for you as an airman to do it as a personal observation than for us to do so in the text of the document. If you wish to send the Secretary a follow-on memorandum stating your position at greater length we will of course prepare such a document. Perhaps the study Dr. Wheelon's people are working on is the best place to make this case.
3. As you are well aware, the study itself was prepared in Mr. William Morell's Office of Research and Reports.

TOP SECRET

Messrs. [ ] and their people are the ones who really did the job and the ones to whom the credit is owing. In accord with Secretary McNamara's and your desire I have maintained close contact with the project from first to last. Four other members of the Board of National Estimates, who are most familiar with this aspect of the Vietnam problem (notably Mr. Abbot Smith, General [ ] General [ ] [ ] and Mr. [ ]), have carefully reviewed the "Findings and Conclusions" in successive drafts. Needless to say, this part of the completed study has our full endorsement. Time and the press of other duties has prevented a similar amount of attention to the appendixes.

SHERMAN KENT  
Director  
National Estimates